

# Truth and Spirit Ministries

## **Healed by God's Amazing Grace**

By Denise Bostic

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost  
But now am found  
Was blind but now I see*

As a believer you may know that you're saved by grace but do you also know that you're *healed* by grace? When we understand the depths to which our salvation goes this truth will become amazingly clear to us. The sacrificial death of our Lord provided much more than we may realize. His blood atonement has redeemed us and completely set us free from sin, the law, poverty, every sickness, disease and bondage. All we must do is receive his finished work as a free gift from God by faith. Through the death of his Son, our Father has provided a complete salvation package for us so that we could have everything that we need or ever will need in the future. Jesus came not only to rescue us from eternal death but also to completely deliver us out of Satan's kingdom of darkness and bring us into God's kingdom of light. He did this so that we could have life and life more abundantly. (*John 10:10*)

### **The Fullness of Salvation**

Paul unashamedly preached the Gospel of salvation in his day and at tremendous sacrifice. He wrote to the Church at Rome concerning this great salvation. Contained within his words was the fullness of what salvation truly consists of. (Romans 1:16)

**<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.**

The fullness of the word salvation here gets lost in the English translation however. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* gives us a much more powerful and clearer meaning.

#### **Salvation:**

**4991 deliver, *health*, salvation, save, saving**

**4982 to save, deliver or protect, *heal*, preserve, save, do well, be (*make*) whole (*emphasis, mine*)**

Through his atonement on the Cross the Lord has provided a complete salvation that ministers to us *spirit, soul* and *body*. In this way God is able to preserve us until the coming of the day of the Lord. (*1 Thessalonians 5:23*) The good news of the Gospel

declares that we don't have to wait until we get to heaven to receive these things but we can receive them in the *here and now*. Healing, in particular, is relegated to this life because it is for the natural or physical body, mind and heart. This is important for every believer to know. In certain religious circles believers are taught the lie that if God won't heal them in this life that he will heal them when they get to heaven. Healing, however, is for the living and not the dead.

The false teaching that I just mentioned above gives believers the wrong idea about God. It misrepresents the message of the Cross. It misrepresents God's love for them, his generous nature towards them and his divine will for their lives. It teaches them the lie that God might not be willing or able to heal them for some unknown reason. This isn't true though. God clearly teaches us through the life of his Son, the ministry of the Holy Spirit and his written word that *it is his will* for us to be healed. Another problem with these type teachings is that it robs believers of the effectiveness of the power of the Cross in their lives.

### **We Can't Add to the Cross of Christ**

Many Christians today are suffering with sickness and disease today unnecessarily because the Gospel message has been watered down and perverted through legalism and the traditions of men. This in turn causes believers to have a lack of knowledge concerning the power of the Cross of Christ that is intended to bring them salvation in every area of their lives including healing. In these final days before the return of the Lord, God is restoring much to the Church and one major thing that he is restoring is grace. The reason he has to do this is because the Church has strayed away from his grace and gotten into works of the flesh. As a result many believers are trying to work for what God has already given to us freely by his grace.

For the last few decades the Church has taught heavily that we are healed by faith. Although this is true it is only half true. The whole truth is we are healed *by grace through faith* in Jesus Christ. Due to unbalanced teaching many believers have failed to receive the healing they have believed so much for because they have been trying to earn it through their own works or because they believe that God is not willing to heal them for lack of faith. We cannot "add to" or "take away" from the Cross of Christ however because his atonement is all sufficient in and by itself. The fullness of everything we need is now found in Christ. If we need healing all we must do is look to him and receive this free gift from him by grace and through faith in his word. (*Colossians 1:19-20; 2:3; II Corinthians 12:9*)

Even though the Gospel plainly puts forth this truth, many believers, due to false teaching, are still trying to earn their healing by doing works. They have in essence put their faith in their religious works rather than in Christ. They feel that God would deem them more worthy of healing if they go to Church, read their Bibles, fast, pray, sing in the choir, serve on the deacon board or tithe, etc, etc. (You get the picture.) Although there's nothing wrong with doing these things, they can't add one iota to the perfect and all sufficient sacrifice of Christ. God heals us not because of anything we have done or haven't done; he heals us because he loves us unconditionally. He doesn't heal us based upon what *we do* but on *what Christ has already done* for us through the Cross. Proof of this is that often he heals

sinner before they even get saved. When he pours out his grace through healing and miracles however this causes many to turn to him and receive him.

## **Grace Defined**

God declares in his word that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ. What does this mean? It means that we can't earn our salvation or even anything that pertains to that salvation (such as healing). The very definition of grace means that one is receiving something that is *unmerited* or *undeserved*. You see, we were all declared "not deserving" because all of us have already sinned and fell short of the glory of God. It is for this reason that God made the decision to make the declaration that we are all now under his grace. He knew that we could never obtain salvation and all its wonderful blessing for ourselves and that's why he sent his Son to obtain them for us. He did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves. God in his mercy now gives all of these marvelous things to us by *grace*.  
(Romans 3:1-26)

Only Jesus obeyed the law perfectly. Only he is righteous in and by himself. Only he is the spotless, sinless Lamb of God. Only he has deserved to obtain all of these things but God in his grace gives all of his good gifts to us because of what his Son has done in our behalf. The good news is that the Lord became our substitute on the Cross. In this way he could take upon himself all of our sin, sickness, disease, bondage and death and in exchange give us his righteousness, healing, freedom and life. (Isaiah 53:4-5; 61:1) The Father imparts grace to us based upon that one time sacrifice. This is why he can now give us the fullness of salvation so freely by his grace. We can do nothing to earn it or change God's enduring promise. His promise of salvation is assured through Christ. (Hebrews 6:13-20)  
*Brothers and sisters in Christ, that's what makes his grace so amazing!*

## **Salvation and Healing is by Grace through Faith**

As we just learned from Romans 1:16, our salvation is a complete package which includes many things including healing. When we come to that realization we will see the word "salvation" in a whole new light when we read about it in God's word. Of course I have already taught much on this site about Hebrews 6:9. That's the scripture that gives direct reference to the fact that there are many things that pertain to or accompany our salvation. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ however God will give us more progressive revelation and there is one that I would like to share with you now. One day the Holy Spirit led me to go to Ephesians 2:8-9. It reads:

**<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.**

He then told me to insert the word "healed" where the word saved is. When I did it looked like this:

**<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been *healed*, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.**

With the fresh revelation that I had received concerning the fullness of salvation, I began to see grace through faith in Christ in a whole new light. In fact, I continued to insert other things that pertained to my salvation into that scripture. I replaced the word "saved" with

things like “delivered”, “provided for” and “protected”. Brothers and sisters in Christ, when God says in his word that our salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, he is not just saying that we are saved (i.e. on our way to heaven) by grace. He is also saying that we are healed, delivered, protected and given provision by his grace as well. Praise the Lord!

Since grace is undeserved, unmerited pardon this means that we can't earn our healing through works. God wants the glory for our healing. He doesn't want us to boast of anything that we have done to obtain our healing but only in what he has done. He wants to glorify himself through you. Thankfully God doesn't give us what we deserve rather he has pardoned (forgiven us) because of what his Son has already done for us. (*Romans 3:21-26*) All he wants us to do is receive all that Christ has provided for us through the atonement as his free gift of grace. The truth is, we can't add to or take away from the perfect sacrifice of Christ. His sacrifice is all sufficient for everything that we need. I have already addressed the “adding to” part when I wrote of people trying to earn or work for their healing. Now I would like to address the “taking away” part.

### **We Can't Take Away From the Cross of Christ**

Most Christians don't doubt God's *ability* to heal them but may doubt his *willingness* to heal them because they don't feel that they're worthy of it. Even though some believers may know that they can't earn a healing they may think that they don't *deserve* a healing due to some fault or sin of your own. Some may believe that they have brought some sickness or disease upon themselves or are just reaping what they have sown. But God doesn't heal or not heal us based upon our own merits. He gives healing to us as a free gift. Some take away from the Cross of Christ by misinterpreting the Gospel message or by rejecting certain aspects of it. This in turn portrays the sacrificial atonement of Christ as *insufficient* to supply their needs. The truth however is just the opposite.

Some believe or teach that God punishes people for their sins with sickness and disease but this too is a lie. The good news of the Gospel of Christ declares that God is no longer counting our sins against us; he is not penalizing or punishing us for sin with sickness and disease (or with anything else) as some may believe but instead is *forgiving us* of sin. Remember what the definition of grace is and that is *undeserved, unmerited pardon*. How could God be withholding healing from us because of sin when he is not counting our sins against us to begin with? The truth is he is not withholding healing from us. It's just our lack of knowledge that prevents us from being healed. It's true that some sickness or disease may strike us through no fault of our own or may be a consequence of some sin that we have committed but even if that is the case God provides healing and extends his forgiveness to us through the body and blood of Christ. (*Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:19-23; 1 Peter 2:24-25, James 5:13-16*) All we must do is receive all of these things by faith in Christ.

### **Redeemed From the Law and Its Curse**

Today many believers have been taught the lie that they are still under the Old Testament Law and this in turn has brought them back under *condemnation*. Condemnation however is an enemy to receiving our healing. It tells us that we aren't deserving of being healed because we have brought a particular sickness or disease upon ourselves through our own

sin. The law however only punishes sin; it doesn't pardon or forgive sin. Being brought under the condemnation of the law will actually prevent us from entering into all the blessings of the New Covenant which includes healing. The problem with the law is that it was only meant to declare us "sinners" it was never meant to bring us the fullness of salvation. Only the Lord Jesus Christ could do that.

Although it's true that the Old Testament Israelites were punished under the curse of the law, this is most certainly not true for New Testament believers in Christ. The reason why is because Christ removed the curse of the law entirely when he died upon the Cross. Paul wrote of this powerful truth in the book of Galatians.

**<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (Galatians 3:13)**

The Lord not only redeems us from our sins, he redeemed us from the curse that came as a result of our sins. He did all of this for a very special reason. Paul continued on to explain why. He wrote:

**<sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.**

The Lord removed the curse of the law so that God could pour out the blessings on us that he had promised to Abraham! One of those blessings is *healing*. We can now be blessed with good health because God is no longer counting our sins against us! (*Romans 4:6-8*) As New Covenant believers we should not be falling for the lie that we are still under the authority of the Old Covenant Mosaic Law. This teaching goes contrary to the Gospel of Christ. (Strong scriptural proof is given through the books of Romans, Galatians and Hebrews)

We have been set free from the law through Christ. In him we have died to the law and are no longer under its authority. (*Romans 7:1-6*) Therefore we should not allow anyone to minister the Old Testament law to us because it was a ministration of *death*. The letter of the law will kill us spiritually and prevent us from receiving all of the good things that are now in Christ. Rather we should live by the ministration of the Spirit. We should only allow competent ministers of the New Covenant to minister to us those things which will bring *life*. (*II Corinthians 3:6-11*)

### **God's Will Is to Heal Us**

*The truth is God has revealed in his word that he is always willing to heal. Jesus proved that when he walked the earth and he perfectly represented God's character, nature and will. (John 14:6-10) God sent Jesus into the earth to save us and reveal his perfect will for our lives. Through the life of Jesus then we learn the will of God. It is written in the gospels that whenever Jesus came into contact with those who had sickness and disease that he healed them all. He always did the express will of the Father. This leaves no room for doubt that it is God's will for us to be healed. (Matthew 8:16-17; 12:15; Mark 3:10; Luke 4:40; 6:17-19; 9:10-11)*

One of the best Biblical examples that we can look to learn of God's will concerning healing is when a leprous man came to Jesus. We find the story in the Gospel of Matthew.

**<sup>1</sup> When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. (Matthew 8:1-3)**

Notice that Jesus didn't give him the third degree about what kind of life he had been living before seeing whether he would heal him or not or tell him he couldn't heal him due to some sin. Why? *He came to reveal God's grace to humanity.* Jesus knew that everyone on the planet had sinned and fell short of God's glory including this man. He knew that he could never do anything to earn his healing. If he had committed some sin, God stood ready to forgive him. Jesus knew that the only way for him to be healed was by God's sheer mercy and grace!

### **Grace is God's Part and Faith is Our Part.**

Some of you reading this today may be thinking by now, "*But what about faith?*" "*Don't we need faith to be healed too?*" Just because I've been focusing on the message of receiving healing by God's grace doesn't negate the fact that faith is also necessary for us to receive healing as well. The New Covenant scriptures are clear concerning this. Salvation and everything that accompanies salvation is *by grace through faith* in Christ. Both are necessary to receive the blessings that we have inherited under the New Covenant through Christ. Notice however who we need to place our faith in. It shouldn't be in anyone or anything other than Christ. After all, he is the only One that gave the perfect sacrifice. Only his sacrifice is received by God. He is the only one that died for you.

We shouldn't place our faith in our own works, in man or substance or even place our faith in "our faith". Our faith must only rest in the Person of Christ and his finished work. Only he is trustworthy and true. It is only when we look to him that we are able to be certain that we can receive the substance of what we hope for. (*Hebrews 11:1; 12:2*) It's vital however for us to understand both grace and faith in order to live in the proper balance that God desires us to. Andrew Wommack explained this very well in his teaching series called *Living in the Balance of Grace and Faith*. He said (and I quote):

*Grace is God's part and faith is our part. Faith is defined as being a positive response to what God has already provided by grace. In other words, faith is your positive response to God's grace. Faith only appropriates what God has already provided for you. Grace and faith work together, and they must be in balance. -Andrew Wommack*  
*Andrew Wommack Ministries*

*Faith only appropriates what God has already provided for you by grace.* How simple is that? There is a simplicity in Christ but the problem is that the lies and deception that the devil spews out through false teachers has complicated and perverted the Gospel of salvation which includes healing. (*II Corinthians 11:3-4*) In spite of this however, the Lord's truth is shining forth and is exposing those lies for what they are. We need to believe God

rather than men. We should reject any and all teaching that does not line up with the Gospel of Christ because *it is* the power of God for our complete salvation. His truth will set us free so that we can receive the healing that we so desperately need.

Just as we are saved by grace through faith in him we are also *healed* in the same manner. It's not enough to have faith; we must receive God's grace as well. We should purpose that we will not receive his grace in vain however. We should believe that the power of the Cross is sufficient to save us in all areas of our lives. We should live by faith in his Word. By the stripes of Christ *we were healed*. (*1 Peter 2:24*) God's word doesn't say that by his stripes maybe we are healed or that we might be healed. The Gospel declares that we were already healed nearly 2000 years ago through the Cross. It's already a done deal. You already have it by grace through faith in Christ.